

Testimony of Save the Sound Before the Environment Committee

In support of House Bill No. 5291 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDING FOR BIKEWAYS, GREENWAYS AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Submitted by David Anderson March 7, 2022

Save the Sound is a nonprofit organization representing over 4,200 member households and 10,000 activists statewide. Our mission is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and the entire Long Island Sound region. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring citizens together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Co-Chairs Cohen and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Slap and Palm, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and members of the Environment Committee:

Save the Sound supports passage of HB 5291, an act which would increase the bonding authorization from three million dollars to six million dollars, effective July 1, 2022, for bikeways, greenways and recreational trails.

Bikeways, greenways and trails not only protect the environment and help to mitigate the impacts of climate change, but also positively impact individuals and improve communities. Some of the many benefits include - making communities better places to live by preserving and creating open spaces; encouraging physical fitness and healthy lifestyles; creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation and non-motorized transportation; strengthening local economies; and preserving culturally and historically valuable areas. In recognition of the numerous benefits bikeways, greenways and trails provide, Save the Sound supports passage of HB 5291.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the above testimony and for your time and consideration of these matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

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